

**144.26 Death certificate.**

1. *a.* A death certificate for each death which occurs in this state shall be filed as directed by the state registrar within three days after the death and prior to final disposition, and shall be registered by the county registrar if it has been completed and filed in accordance with this chapter. A death certificate shall include the social security number, if provided, of the deceased person. All information including the certifying physician's, physician assistant's, or advanced registered nurse practitioner's name shall be typewritten.

*b.* A physician assistant or an advanced registered nurse practitioner authorized to sign a death certificate shall be licensed in this state and shall have been in charge of the deceased patient's care.

2. All information included on a death certificate may be provided as mutually agreed upon by the division and the child support recovery unit, including by automated exchange.

3. The county in which a dead body is found is the county of death. If death occurs in a moving conveyance, the county in which the dead body is first removed from the conveyance is the county of death.

4. *a.* The department shall establish by rule procedures for making a finding of presumption of death when no body can be found. The department shall also provide by rule the responsibility for completing and signing the medical certification of cause of death in such circumstances. The presumptive death certificate shall be in a form prescribed by the state registrar and filed in the county where the death was presumed to occur.

*b.* The division shall provide for the correction, substitution, or removal of a presumptive death certificate when the body of the person is later found, additional facts are discovered, or the person is discovered to be alive.

[SS15, §587-b; C24, 27, 31, 35, 39, §2319; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §141.3; C71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, S81, §144.26; 81 Acts, ch 64, §5]

88 Acts, ch 1158, §40; 97 Acts, ch 159, §14; 97 Acts, ch 175, §226; 2002 Acts, ch 1108, §11; 2011 Acts, ch 26, §2

[T] Subsection 1 amended